

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2123

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## AN ACT

To establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Pray Safe Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) the term “Clearinghouse” means the Fed-  
6 eral Clearinghouse on Safety Best Practices for  
7 Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship  
8 established under section 2220A of the Homeland  
9 Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3 of this  
10 Act;

11 (2) the term “Department” means the Depart-  
12 ment of Homeland Security;

13 (3) the terms “faith-based organization” and  
14 “house of worship” have the meanings given such  
15 terms under section 2220A of the Homeland Secu-  
16 rity Act of 2002, as added by section 3 of this Act;  
17 and

18 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
19 of Homeland Security.

20 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SAFETY AND SECU-**  
21 **RITY BEST PRACTICES FOR FAITH-BASED OR-**  
22 **GANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the  
24 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.),  
25 as amended by section 9, is amended by adding at the  
26 end the following:

1 **“SEC. 2220A. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SAFETY AND**  
 2 **SECURITY BEST PRACTICES FOR FAITH-**  
 3 **BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF**  
 4 **WORSHIP.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 “(1) the term ‘Clearinghouse’ means the Clear-  
 7 inghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for  
 8 Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship  
 9 established under subsection (b)(1);

10 “(2) the term ‘faith-based organization’ means  
 11 a group, center, or nongovernmental organization  
 12 with a religious, ideological, or spiritual motivation,  
 13 character, affiliation, or purpose;

14 “(3) the term ‘house of worship’ means a place  
 15 or building, including synagogues, mosques, temples,  
 16 and churches, in which congregants practice their re-  
 17 ligious or spiritual beliefs; and

18 “(4) the term ‘safety and security’, for the pur-  
 19 pose of the Clearinghouse, means prevention of, pro-  
 20 tection against, or recovery from threats, including  
 21 manmade disasters, natural disasters, or violent at-  
 22 tacks.

23 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days  
 25 after the date of enactment of the Pray Safe Act,  
 26 the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney

1 General, the Executive Director of the White House  
 2 Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partner-  
 3 ships, and the head of any other agency that the  
 4 Secretary determines appropriate, shall establish a  
 5 Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best  
 6 Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses  
 7 of Worship within the Department.

8 “(2) PURPOSE.—The Clearinghouse shall be  
 9 the primary resource of the Federal Government—

10 “(A) to educate and publish online best  
 11 practices and recommendations for safety and  
 12 security for faith-based organizations and  
 13 houses of worship; and

14 “(B) to provide information relating to  
 15 Federal grant programs available to faith-based  
 16 organizations and houses of worship.

17 “(3) PERSONNEL.—

18 “(A) ASSIGNMENTS.—The Clearinghouse  
 19 shall be assigned such personnel and resources  
 20 as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry  
 21 out this section.

22 “(B) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may co-  
 23 ordinate detailees as required for the Clearing-  
 24 house.

1 “(C) DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT.—

2 There shall be not less than 1 employee as-  
 3 signed or detailed to the Clearinghouse who  
 4 shall be the designated point of contact to pro-  
 5 vide information and assistance to faith-based  
 6 organizations and houses of worship, including  
 7 assistance relating to the grant program estab-  
 8 lished under section 5 of the Pray Safe Act.  
 9 The contact information of the designated point  
 10 of contact shall be made available on the  
 11 website of the Clearinghouse.

12 “(D) QUALIFICATION.—To the maximum  
 13 extent possible, any personnel assigned or de-  
 14 tailed to the Clearinghouse under this para-  
 15 graph should be familiar with faith-based orga-  
 16 nizations and houses of worship and with phys-  
 17 ical and online security measures to identify  
 18 and prevent safety and security risks.

19 “(c) CLEARINGHOUSE CONTENTS.—

20 “(1) EVIDENCE-BASED TIERS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-  
 22 sultation with the Attorney General, the Execu-  
 23 tive Director of the White House Office of  
 24 Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships,  
 25 and the head of any other agency that the Sec-

retary determines appropriate, shall develop tiers for determining evidence-based practices that demonstrate a significant effect on improving safety or security, or both, for faith-based organizations and houses of worship.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The tiers required to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) prioritize—

“(I) strong evidence from not less than 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study; and

“(II) moderate evidence from not less than 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; and

“(ii) consider promising evidence that demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve security and promote safety for faith-based organizations and houses of worship.

“(2) CRITERIA FOR BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The best practices and rec-

1       ommendations of the Clearinghouse shall, at a min-  
2       imum—

3               “(A) identify areas of concern for faith-  
4       based organizations and houses of worship, in-  
5       cluding event planning recommendations, check-  
6       lists, facility hardening, tabletop exercise re-  
7       sources, and other resilience measures;

8               “(B) involve comprehensive safety meas-  
9       ures, including threat prevention, preparedness,  
10      protection, mitigation, incident response, and  
11      recovery to improve the safety posture of faith-  
12      based organizations and houses of worship upon  
13      implementation;

14              “(C) involve comprehensive safety meas-  
15      ures, including preparedness, protection, mitiga-  
16      tion, incident response, and recovery to improve  
17      the resiliency of faith-based organizations and  
18      houses of worship from manmade and natural  
19      disasters;

20              “(D) include any evidence or research ra-  
21      tionale supporting the determination of the  
22      Clearinghouse that the best practices or rec-  
23      ommendations under subparagraph (B) have  
24      been shown to have a significant effect on im-  
25      proving the safety and security of individuals in

1 faith-based organizations and houses of wor-  
2 ship, including—

3 “(i) findings and data from previous  
4 Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial,  
5 private sector, and nongovernmental orga-  
6 nization research centers relating to safety,  
7 security, and targeted violence at faith-  
8 based organizations and houses of worship;  
9 and

10 “(ii) other supportive evidence or find-  
11 ings relied upon by the Clearinghouse in  
12 determining best practices and recommen-  
13 dations to improve the safety and security  
14 posture of a faith-based organization or  
15 house of worship upon implementation;  
16 and

17 “(E) include an overview of the available  
18 resources the Clearinghouse can provide for  
19 faith-based organizations and houses of wor-  
20 ship.

21 “(3) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Clear-  
22 inghouse shall maintain and make available a com-  
23 prehensive index of all Federal grant programs for  
24 which faith-based organizations and houses of wor-  
25 ship are eligible, which shall include the performance



1 metrics for each grant management that the recipi-  
 2 ent will be required to provide.

3 “(4) PAST RECOMMENDATIONS.—To the great-  
 4 est extent practicable, the Clearinghouse shall iden-  
 5 tify and present, as appropriate, best practices and  
 6 recommendations issued by Federal, State, local,  
 7 Tribal, territorial, private sector, and nongovern-  
 8 mental organizations relevant to the safety and secu-  
 9 rity of faith-based organizations and houses of wor-  
 10 ship.

11 “(d) ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—The Secretary  
 12 may produce and publish materials on the Clearinghouse  
 13 to assist and train faith-based organizations, houses of  
 14 worship, and law enforcement agencies on the implementa-  
 15 tion of the best practices and recommendations.

16 “(e) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

18 “(A) collect for the purpose of continuous  
 19 improvement of the Clearinghouse—

20 “(i) Clearinghouse data analytics;

21 “(ii) user feedback on the implemen-  
 22 tation of resources, best practices, and rec-  
 23 ommendations identified by the Clearing-  
 24 house; and

1           “(iii) any evaluations conducted on  
2           implementation of the best practices and  
3           recommendations of the Clearinghouse;  
4           and

5           “(B) in coordination with the Faith-Based  
6           Security Advisory Council of the Department,  
7           the Department of Justice, the Executive Direc-  
8           tor of the White House Office of Faith-Based  
9           and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other  
10          agency that the Secretary determines appro-  
11          priate—

12           “(i) assess and identify Clearinghouse  
13           best practices and recommendations for  
14           which there are no resources available  
15           through Federal Government programs for  
16           implementation;

17           “(ii) provide feedback on the imple-  
18           mentation of best practices and recommen-  
19           dations of the Clearinghouse; and

20           “(iii) propose additional recommenda-  
21           tions for best practices for inclusion in the  
22           Clearinghouse; and

23           “(C) not less frequently than annually, ex-  
24           amine and update the Clearinghouse in accord-  
25           ance with—

1 “(i) the information collected under  
2 subparagraph (A); and

3 “(ii) the recommendations proposed  
4 under subparagraph (B)(iii).

5 “(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The  
6 Secretary shall submit to Congress, on an annual  
7 basis, a report on the updates made to the Clearing-  
8 house during the preceding 1-year period under  
9 paragraph (1)(C), which shall include a description  
10 of any changes made to the Clearinghouse.”.

11 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
12 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
13 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135), as amended by  
14 section 9 of this Act, is amended by inserting after the  
15 item relating to section 2220 the following:

“Sec. 2220A. Federal Clearinghouse on Safety Best Practices for Faith-Based  
Organizations and Houses of Worship.”.

16 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF CLEARINGHOUSE.**

17 The Secretary shall provide written notification of the  
18 establishment of the Clearinghouse, with an overview of  
19 the resources required as described in section 2220A of  
20 the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section  
21 3 of this Act, and section 5 of this Act, to—

22 (1) every State homeland security advisor;

23 (2) every State department of homeland secu-  
24 rity;

1           (3) other Federal agencies with grant programs  
2           or initiatives that aid in the safety and security of  
3           faith-based organizations and houses of worship, as  
4           determined appropriate by the Secretary;

5           (4) every Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint  
6           Terrorism Task Force;

7           (5) every Homeland Security Fusion Center;

8           (6) every State or territorial Governor or other  
9           chief executive;

10          (7) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
11          Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Ju-  
12          diciary of the Senate; and

13          (8) the Committee on Homeland Security and  
14          the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of  
15          Representatives.

16 **SEC. 5. GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW.**

17          (a) DHS GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—The Secretary  
18          shall include a grants program overview on the website  
19          of the Clearinghouse that shall—

20               (1) be the primary location for all information  
21               regarding Department grant programs that are open  
22               to faith-based organizations and houses of worship;

23               (2) directly link to each grant application and  
24               any applicable user guides;

1           (3) identify all safety and security homeland se-  
2           curity assistance programs managed by the Depart-  
3           ment that may be used to implement best practices  
4           and recommendation of the Clearinghouse;

5           (4) annually, and concurrent with the applica-  
6           tion period for any grant identified under paragraph  
7           (1), provide information related to the required ele-  
8           ments of grant applications to aid smaller faith  
9           based organizations and houses of worship in earn-  
10          ing access to Federal grants; and

11          (5) provide frequently asked questions and an-  
12          swers for the implementation of best practices and  
13          recommendations of the Clearinghouse and best  
14          practices for applying for a grant identified under  
15          paragraph (1).

16          (b) OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—  
17          Each Federal agency notified under section 4(3) shall pro-  
18          vide necessary information on any Federal grant programs  
19          or resources of the Federal agency that are available for  
20          faith-based organizations and houses of worship to the  
21          Secretary or the appropriate point of contact for the  
22          Clearinghouse.

23          (c) STATE GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—

24                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any State notified under  
25          paragraph (1), (2), or (6) of section 4 may provide

1        necessary information on any grant programs or re-  
 2        sources of the State available for faith-based organi-  
 3        zations and houses of worship to the Secretary or  
 4        the appropriate point of contact for the Clearing-  
 5        house.

6            (2) IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES.—The  
 7        Clearinghouse shall, to the extent practicable, iden-  
 8        tify, for each State—

9            (A) each agency responsible for safety for  
 10        faith-based organizations and houses of worship  
 11        in the State, or any State that does not have  
 12        such an agency designated;

13            (B) any grant program that may be used  
 14        for the purposes of implementing best practices  
 15        and recommendations of the Clearinghouse; and

16            (C) any resources or programs, including  
 17        community prevention or intervention efforts,  
 18        that may be used to assist in targeted violence  
 19        and terrorism prevention.

20    **SEC. 6. OTHER RESOURCES.**

21        The Secretary shall, on the website of the Clearing-  
 22        house, include a separate section for other resources that  
 23        shall provide a centralized list of all available points of  
 24        contact to seek assistance in grant applications and in car-

1 rying out the best practices and recommendations of the  
 2 Clearinghouse, including—

3 (1) a list of contact information to reach De-  
 4 partment personnel to assist with grant-related ques-  
 5 tions;

6 (2) the applicable Cybersecurity and Infrastruc-  
 7 ture Security Agency contact information to connect  
 8 houses of worship with Protective Security Advisors;

9 (3) contact information for all Department Fu-  
 10 sion Centers, listed by State;

11 (4) information on the If you See Something  
 12 Say Something Campaign of the Department; and

13 (5) any other appropriate contacts.

#### 14 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

15 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this  
 16 Act shall be construed to create, satisfy, or waive any re-  
 17 quirement under Federal civil rights laws, including—

18 (1) title II of the Americans With Disabilities  
 19 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.); or

20 (2) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42  
 21 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

#### 22 **SEC. 8. EXEMPTION.**

23 Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (com-  
 24 monly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”) shall  
 25 not apply to any rulemaking or information collection re-

1 quired under this Act or under section 2220A of the  
2 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3  
3 of this Act.

4 **SEC. 9. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

5 (a) REDESIGNATIONS.—Subtitle A of title XXII of  
6 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)  
7 is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating section 2217 (6 U.S.C.  
9 665f) as section 2220;

10 (2) by redesignating section 2216 (6 U.S.C.  
11 665e) as section 2219;

12 (3) by redesignating the fourth section 2215  
13 (relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies) (6  
14 U.S.C. 665d) as section 2218;

15 (4) by redesignating the third section 2215 (re-  
16 lating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator) (6  
17 U.S.C. 665c) as section 2217; and

18 (5) by redesignating the second section 2215  
19 (relating to the Joint Cyber Planning Office) (6  
20 U.S.C. 665b) as section 2216.

21 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—  
22 Section 2202(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
23 (6 U.S.C. 652(c)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” at the  
25 end;



1 (2) in the first paragraph (12)—

2 (A) by striking “section 2215” and insert-  
3 ing “section 2217”; and

4 (B) by striking “and” at the end; and

5 (3) by redesignating the second and third para-  
6 graphs (12) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respec-  
7 tively.

8 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in  
9 section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public  
10 Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by striking  
11 the item relating to section 2214 and all that follows  
12 through the item relating to section 2217 and inserting  
13 the following:

“Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.

“Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.

“Sec. 2216. Joint Cyber Planning Office.

“Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.

“Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.

“Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.

“Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity education and training programs.”.

14 (d) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

15 (1) AMENDMENT.—Section 904(b)(1) of the  
16 DOTGOV Act of 2020 (title IX of division U of  
17 Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter pre-  
18 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Homeland  
19 Security Act” and inserting “Homeland Security Act  
20 of 2002”.

21 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
22 by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if enacted as

1 part of the DOTGOV Act of 2020 (title IX of divi-  
 2 sion U of Public Law 116–260).

Passed the Senate April 5, 2022.

Attest:

*Secretary.*



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